REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 12-14 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. In addition, Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to better set forth Applicant's claimed invention.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheets of Drawings, showing Figures 12-14 labelled as "Prior Art." In addition, reference numerals 201 and 202 have been deleted in Figure 14. Approval of the replacement sheets is respectfully requested.

The objection to the disclosure is deemed to be overcome because of the changes shown to Figure 14, as discussed above.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to recite a control program embodied in a computer-readable medium. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Ohnishi '465 in view of Kuriyama '125. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to an image processing method for creating bit map data and attribute information for each pixel formed of at least two object bits each representing different types of objects a given pixel will display and an inversion bit

representing an inversion attribute and corresponding to the bit map data by expanding a rendering command. The method includes an operation determining step of determining the type of operation to be performed on the attribute information based on logical operation processing specified for the rendering command, and a logical operation processing creating step of creating the logical operation processing for the attribute information based on the determined type of operation. As amended, a logical operation processing step creates the attribute information formed of at least two object bits each representing different types of objects a given pixel will display and an inversion bit representing an inversion attribute by executing the logical operation processing so that the bit pattern represented by the attribute information has all of the bits turned off, has only one object bit turned on, has only one object bit turned off, or has all of the bits turned on. In addition, an inverting step inverts the attribute information when one only object bit is turned off or when all of the bits are turned on.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 4 and 9 and in paragraph [0074] (page 23), *et. seq.*, of the specification. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance image processing method can be provided.

The primary citation to Ohnishi relates to an image processing apparatus and was cited for its teaching of an operation determining step of determining the type of operation to be performed on attribute information, a logical operation processing creating step, and a logical operation processing step of creating attribute information by executing the logical operation processing.

The Office Action acknowledges that Ohnishi does not provide an inversion step of inverting the attribute information, and cites Kuriyama to compensate for this deficiency. Kuriyama relates to an image reading apparatus for reading picture elements of an original image and converting analog signals of the picture elements into multilevel digital signals.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, neither Ohnishi nor Kuriyama teaches or suggests, among other features, providing attribute information in the form of object bits and an inversion bit. These patents thus also fail to create the attribute information or invert the attribute information in the manner set forth in Applicant's Claim 1.

Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Ohnishi and Kuriyama in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Claim 1 of Applicant's invention.

As will be appreciated, independent Claims 12-14 have been amended along the same lines as Claim 1 to include the attribute information formed of at least two object bits each representing different types of objects a given pixel will display and an inversion bit representing an inversion attribute and also include inverting the attribute information when only one object bit is turned off or when all of the bits are turned on.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

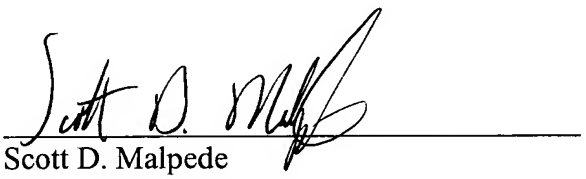
Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 12-14 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims

2-11 and 15 set forth additional features of the claimed invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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